



For Immediate Release
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**STATE ANNOUNCES PUBLICATION OF NEW GUIDES ON
PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC TREES AND ROADS**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is internationally recognized not only for its critical role in American history, but also for its historic preservation efforts, safeguarding the landmarks, landscapes and artifacts that are the essence of its rich heritage. From flagship sites like the Boston Harbor Islands to simple ones like historic tobacco barns in the Pioneer Valley, historic landscapes throughout the state are visible and endearing reminders of what makes Massachusetts special.

For organizations and individuals interested in continuing this tradition of preservation, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Office of Cultural Resources today announced the publication of the second and third installments of the *Terra Firma* technical bulletin series, *Terra Firma #2: Preserving Mature Trees in Historic Landscapes* and *Terra Firma #3: Identifying and Preserving Historic Roads*.

“Historic landscapes are part of the fabric of New England life, enhancing the quality of life and character of surrounding communities,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “With the publication of these technical assistance bulletins, municipalities, parks, and other public and private organizations throughout the Commonwealth will be better equipped to care for these historic resources.”

Terra Firma #2: Preserving Mature Trees in Historic Landscapes provides guidance on the identification, care, and replacement of trees that add significance and character to historic landscapes. Special topics related to mature trees in historic landscapes, such as balancing preservation with public safety, tree removal and appropriate replacement, and caring for trees in historic burial grounds, provide the public with the basic tools for caring for these often overlooked historic resources. Examples of historic Massachusetts trees are included, such as the Council Oak in Dighton, the Littleleaf linden tree in Marshfield, and Hopkinton Town Common’s numerous historic trees.

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Terra Firma #3: Identifying and Preserving Historic Roads covers the process of identifying historic roads, documenting their characteristics, and protecting them through legal avenues available within the Commonwealth. Topics such as recognizing threats like inappropriate zoning are complemented by discussions about liability and protections: for example, the Scenic Roads Act. A series of success stories from Winthrop Street in Provincetown to the Mount Greylock Historic Parkway Rehabilitation Project illustrates the resources, methodologies, and results of preserving historic roads.

Prepared as part of DCR's Historic Landscape Preservation Initiative's ongoing public technical assistance efforts, *Terra Firma* publications cover topics of interest to municipalities, historic commissions, and local entities as identified in a 2004 needs survey.

The first edition of the series, *Terra Firma #1: An Introduction to Historic Landscape Preservation*, was published in 2005. DCR plans to publish new *Terra Firma* bulletins annually; future editions may address such topics as preserving town commons and developing public/private partnerships.

To obtain a free copy of any of the three *Terra Firma* publications, contact Shaun Provencher at 617-626-1376 or Shaun.Provencher@state.ma.us. Order forms for hard copies, and PDFs of all three bulletins, can also be found online at www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/publications.htm.

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